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# FORMER COMMISSIONER'S CAMP SITE

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## Location

FOREST STREET CASTLEMAINE - PROPERTY NUMBER 11, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-1266

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 1, 2023

### What is significant?

The area was first mapped and designated the Gold Commissioner's Camp by Captain Wright in 1851 after the discovery of gold along Barkers Creek. The site contained a number of significant administrative and police buildings, including the post office and treasury. The area was known to have some police buildings, including stables and barracks within the boundary as well. In 1861 Section 117B was reserved for public purposes and the camp buildings were subsequently repurposed. The site was used as a parade ground for the Volunteer Rifle Corps, and in the 1870s became the home of the Castlemaine Agricultural Show. The reserve has been subject to minor developments throughout the twentieth century but has been predominantly used by the public as a recreational reserve.

### How is it significant?

The site is of historical, archaeological and social significance.

### Why is it significant?

The site is of historical significance as the location of a key government establishment during the years of the Victorian goldrush – one of the most significant rushes in world history. The site is of archaeological significance due to its potential to contain artefacts, deposits and features that relate to the establishment and operation of the camp, and other later 19th century activities. The place is also of social significance to the community of Castlemaine who have an understanding and appreciation of the history of this place as a focus of activities during the key years of the goldrush, and through their associations with later civic activities and celebrations.

Hermes Number 209481

Property Number

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*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*